

**From:** Vincent Keunen  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 11:31am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir,

Please excuse any language errors, I am not a native English speaker.

I am the manager of a small company in Belgium, Europe.

I am strongly against the proposed settlement. I am really and honestly convinced that it will not do much to prevent Microsoft from conducting its aggressive and illegal business (let alone unethical). There has been several very clear demonstrations in the past that Microsoft does not hesitate to have such behaviours. It is also very clear to me that, already now, they are seriously preparing other kinds of such "competitors eliminations". What Microsoft has done in the browser market to Netscape, it is also doing it with its Windows Media Player to Real Player and Apple's quicktime; with its Instant Messenger to AOL's Instant Messenger; with its MSN network to other News networks on Internet; with Outlook to all other email and agenda systems; etc... Not as visible but also important is that all those "client" applications need server software. If Microsoft illegally controls all those client software, it will also very easily promote its server software (like IIS, Exchange, Media server, IM server,...), preventing others from developing such server software. This is also true, although to a lesser extent, for development tools.

Our company is betting on Java to develop faster, easier and in a more portable way various software systems. Microsoft is trying as hard as they can to kill the Java platform (not to be confused with Java, the language). So Microsoft is, again, going against our own interests, our clients interests and the good health of the software industry in illegal ways.

Please do consider real solutions to this several years long problem. Time is in favor of Microsoft. They know it. They do all they can, as fast as they can, to quickly capture the various new markets I mentioned above and kill competition as they did with the browser.

I can't help but feeling pretty insecure that the tool (the internet browser) used to access the vast amount of information, data and entertainment of the Internet is today belonging to a unique, monopolist, abusive, private, commercial company. This gives them an enormous power and ability to control so much of the information society. I really fear for my kids: they will live in a world controlled by a small number of private, commercial companies known to do many illegal things to get more power.

Please keep my testimony as anonymous as possible, because currently, the software world being so dependant on Windows and Microsoft that if it were known widely that we are against Microsoft, we would probably lose a significant part of our business.

Thank you.

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!try; do()

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